



CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION UPDATE August 29, 2011

CTE Resources now on Secondary CTE Web Page

For your convenience, there are two helpful CTE-related calendars now posted on the Secondary CTE web page. First, the DUE DATES Calendar lists all due dates and deadlines relating to CTE accountability data and money-related concerns. Second, the 2011-12 CTE Calendar of Events which list additional dates and happenings related to Career Technical Education such as conference dates for student organizations and teacher professional development.

You can find both calendars on the Secondary CTE web page under the 'Calendar' tab, and located here: http://www.opi.mt.gov/programs/CTAE/CTE.html#gpm1_5.

The NEXT STEP in the Big Sky Pathways Process – 2nd Year Meetings

The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) and the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) are pleased to extend an invitation to public high schools funded through Perkins to join Perkins-funded colleges for the Big Sky Pathways workshops being held in regional areas throughout the state. The ultimate goal of these Pathway initiatives include smooth transitions from high school to work or college; enhancing academic momentum; decreasing remediation rates; and increased persistence and graduation rates.

The day and a half Big Sky Pathway workshop will let you take the pathway you developed last year and refine it to meet all State and Federal Perkins requirements to elevate your program and your students to the next level. If you did NOT participate last year, do not despair. OCHE and OPI staff will work with you to bring you up to speed with a quality Big Sky Pathway for your students. You will be provided tools to make your task easier and to produce a quality final product. Be prepared to evaluate your Big Sky Pathway and make improvements, if necessary.

Why is it important to attend?

This process is the foundation for all future Big Sky Pathway initiatives and is a **key** step in this multi-year project. All future initiatives will require this process before funding future pathway activities. Continued Perkins funding to school districts and institutions will depend on alignment of Programs of Study that meet federal requirements. For Montana, this process is developing a Big Sky Pathway.

Who should attend this workshop?

Big Sky Pathway Teams for existing or new pathways will include the following:

- A college CTE faculty member
- For each high school pathway, the following team members will include:
 - One (1) CTE teacher
 - One (1) academic teacher
 - One (1) counselor per pathway
- For high schools offering more than one (1) Big Sky Pathway, teams may have to share academic teachers and counselor team members

Credit Opportunities: OPI Renewal credits or one (1) Graduate Credit offered for \$150 through Montana State University, Billings.



Reimbursement: Most costs to attend the workshop will be reimbursed by the postsecondary partners in coordination with OCHE. Specific details about reimbursement are located on the Montana Big Sky Pathway Website or by contacting bsp@montana.edu.

Registration DEADLINE: September 28, 2011

Questions or to Learn More: For newcomers to Big Sky Pathways and those who want to know a little more, a Webinar Training session is scheduled for 3:30 PM on **Tuesday, September 13**. This session will be recorded. All answers to questions from the Webinar or submitted to bsp@montana.edu can be found on the Montana Big Sky Pathway Website. For more information and to register online for these workshops, please contact bsp@montana.edu.

DATES	Begin		End	LOCATION
October 10	8:00 AM	October 11	Noon	Great Falls
October 12	8:00 AM	October 13	Noon	Havre
October 26	8:00 AM	October 27	Noon	Kalispell
November 7	8:00 AM	November 8	Noon	Billings
November 9	8:00 AM	November 10	Noon	Miles City
November 14	8:00 AM	November 15	Noon	Missoula
December 5	8:00 AM	December 6	Noon	Helena
December 7	8:00 AM	December 8	Noon	Butte

Agriculture Education

No update at this time.

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Business Education

The 2010-2011 school year ended with great success for Montana's business and marketing education programs and this momentum will only be built upon as students and teachers begin returning to the classroom.

Montana DECA

In April, 160 members of Montana DECA attended the 2011 International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida, April 30-May 3. There were three individuals and/or teams from Whitefish High School and Glacier High School placing in the Top 10 in their respective events of Automotive Services Marketing Role Play #2, Hospitality Services Comprehensive Exam, and Principles of Finance Preliminary Contest Interview.



Business Professionals of America—National Leadership Conference

The student members and advisors of the Montana association of Business Professionals of America (BPA) also attended their national conference held this year in Washington, DC. This year, over 330 Montana BPA representatives participated in the 2011 National Leadership Conference May 3-8. One of many highlights of this year's conference was the Opening Session being held outdoors on the National Mall at the base of the Washington Monument—making this a truly “monumental experience” for all. During the Grand Awards Session, 25 individuals/teams from Montana made it to the stage and were awarded for placing in the Top 10 in their respective competitive events, including our National Champion students from Colstrip High School in Virtual Multimedia & Production Team and Roundup High School in Database Applications. Additionally, Forsyth High School graduate Derek Livermont completed his term on the 2010-2011 Secondary National Officer Team serving as the National Vice President.

Summer Professional Development Opportunities

During the summer, many of Montana's business and marketing educators attended numerous workshops and professional development opportunities. A large of them attended the Montana Business Education Association's Summer Update which was held in conjunction with the Montana Institute on Educational Technology at Montana State University-Great Falls College of Technology. This week-long event, held June 13-17, provided educators with numerous hands-on workshops on the most current classroom technologies, best practices, equipment and the newest software applications.

Montana Business Education Association

As the 2011-2012 school year begins, there are many great learning and professional development opportunities being planned. In October, the Montana Business Education Association, in partnership with the Montana Association for Career and Technical Education, will be holding its annual conference in Great Falls October 20 and 21. In February, the Western Business Education Association's 2012 Conference will take place in Newport Beach, California. On the national level, the 2012 National Business Education Association Annual Convention and Trade Show will be April 3-7 in the historical Back Bay/Beacon Hill neighborhood of Boston.

CTSO dates for 2011-2012

The students of our Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) will be equally busy this year as they develop their leadership skills, expand their workplace competencies, participate in their various school and community outreach projects, and prepare for regional and state leadership conferences. The 2012 Montana DECA State Career Development Conference will be February 12-14 in Helena and the 2012 Montana BPA State Leadership Conference will be in Billings, March 11-13. The national conferences for each organization will take place in the spring with Montana BPA traveling east to Chicago, Illinois, April 24-29, and Montana DECA heading south to Salt Lake City from April 28-May 1.

Best wishes to all on a successful and exciting 2011-2012 school year.

Respectfully submitted,

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Family and Consumer Sciences Education

Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers

Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) professionals have been busy over the summer engaging in professional development opportunities around the state including Glendive, Billings and Missoula. Some FCS professionals were also able to take advantage of professional development offered at the national level including conferences offered by the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences, Johnson & Wales University, ProStart, and Family Economics & Financial Education.

FCCLA National Leadership Conference

The 2011 FCCLA National Leadership Conference "Imagination in Action" was held July 10 – 14 in Anaheim, CA. Montana attendance included approximately 145 students and adults. Montana competitors brought home 41 gold, 29 silver and 3 bronze medals. Two individuals scored a perfect score of 100 percent! Congratulations to Charlie Smart of Sheridan competing in Applied Technology and Taylor Miller of Lewistown competing in Fashion Construction for a job well done! Advisers were also recognized during the conference for their continued hard work and dedication to our members. Congratulations to Marjorie Chinadle, North Star FCCLA Chapter Adviser, for receiving the Spirit of Advising Award, Vicki Kaufman, Bridger FCCLA Chapter Adviser, for receiving the Master Adviser Award, and Connie Jones, Drummond FCCLA Chapter Adviser, for receiving the Adviser Mentor Award! Another great Montana achievement during the conference was the election of Ariana Lake from Ennis as the 2011-2012 National 1st Vice President of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. Ariana was one of ten national officers elected during the conference; being elected a national officer is the highest leadership honor an FCCLA member can achieve. Congratulations, Ariana! Montana is also being represented on the national level by two chapter advisers. Nancy Linnell, Sunburst, holds a position on the STAR Events Advisory Team (SEAT), and Cathe Felz, Three Forks, is a member of the National Consultant Team.

FCS Regional Meetings in August

During the first part of August, I traveled the state to meet with approximately 70 FCS educators while hosting workshops in the following locations: Butte, Big Timber, Glendive, Havre, and Kalispell. FCS professionals received professional development on CTE topics including Using Technology in the FCS Classroom, Carl Perkins and Big Sky Pathways, State of State FCS Programs, Media Literacy, Best Practices, and Nutrition Education resources. FCS Professionals have also been engaging in social networking as a means to communicate best practices and share resources with educators across the state.

As the new school year begins, FCS educators are busy planning for another successful school year, making plans to attend professional development opportunities around the state, continue participation in the Big Sky Pathways Initiative and organize FCCLA District Meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

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Health Sciences Technology Education

Summer Teacher Training

This past summer, teachers from Columbia Falls, Plains, Hamilton, Dillon, Great Falls, and Belgrade high schools participated in health science training. They participated in a 40-hour course at UM-Missoula, College of Technology, and then completed an additional 40-hour job shadow in a medical facility of their choice. This class has been taught for the past three years and has added 25 Health Science teachers in Montana schools.

Med Start Summer Camps for high schoolers

The regional Area Health Education Centers offered three (3) Med Start Summer Camps this past summer with 80 high school participants. These camps were held on university campuses in Missoula, Bozeman, and Billings. The camp is open to students between their junior and senior years, from rural communities, low-income and/or first generation to enter college. Information was sent to all high schools and up to teachers to pass this information to their students. The camp was free of charge and student feedback has been incredible.

Montana HOSA Students Excel at National Conference

Eleven students and six advisors from Great Falls High School, CM Russell High School, and Bozeman High School attended and competed at the Health Occupations Student Association (HOSA) National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, California June 21 – 25, 2011. HOSA is a student lead organization that helps prepare students to enter careers in the high skill, high demand, and high pay healthcare industry. Each of the eleven (11) Montana students qualified to attend the National Conference by placing in the top of their competitive events at the state level. At the National level, 4,200 students competed in the 57 competitive events. To be recognized as a "finalist" in each event, students had to place in the top ten at the national level. Three Montana HOSA students achieved this great honor! Congratulations to these Montana HOSA students for achieving such great success at the National level! For more information and a list of students attending, visit our OPI Web Page: http://www.opi.mt.gov/programs/CTAE/CTE.html#gpm1_8

Respectfully submitted,

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Industrial, Trades and Technology Education

SkillsUSA National Leadership Conference

The 2011 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference was held June 19 through June 24, in Kansas City, MO. There were 5,600 student competitors representing chapters from every state, with conference attendance reaching 15,000.

Students earn the right to compete in national competition by placing first in one of several leadership or skills contests held in each state. The Montana SkillsUSA Leadership and Skills Conference, was held on the campus of MSU-N in Havre, last April.

Motivated students who did not place first in a state competition, have the option to attend the National SkillsUSA Conference by serving as a Business Delegate and participate in conducting official business meetings, which guide the organization through the upcoming year. This option is limited to two secondary and two postsecondary students from each state.

This year, twenty students representing Montana SkillsUSA Chapters from Custer County HS, Billings Career Center, MSU-Billings COT, Great Falls HS, Charlo HS, Jefferson HS Boulder, CMR HS Great Falls, Manhattan HS, Helena HS, Thompson Falls HS, competed in Kansas City.

Although the Montana students did not bring home gold, silver or bronze this year, they all scored above the fifty percentile in their perspective contests.

The pressure is overwhelming when you consider students are competing against the best Career and Technical Education (CTE) students from all 50 states. It is reassuring to see contest scores of 79% or above being reached by chapter members from smaller schools such as Charlo and Manhattan.

A sincere gratitude belongs to the parents, chaperones, and dedication of the chapter advisors, who made this conference a successful experience for Montana SkillsUSA students.

Respectfully submitted,

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